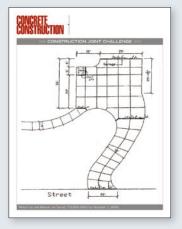
Construction Joint Challenge Winner

Among the 60 entries to CC's Construction Joint Challenge, Richard Albright, owner, Richard O. Albright Inc., Carmel, Ind., won first place with his detailed layout of isolation joints. Two other entries were chosen as runner-ups: David Turner, president/owner, Turner Concrete Construction Inc., Mukwonago, Wis.; and Steven M. Waalkes, PE, director of engineering-West Michigan, Michigan Concrete Paving Association, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Each winner will receive a complimentary one-year subscription of CC. To view each drawing, visit www.concreteconstruction.net.

The judges for the driveway challenge included Robert Rodden, director of technical services for the American Concrete Paving Association (ACPA), Skokie, Ill.; Brian Boch, director of marketing for DuKane Precast, Aurora, Ill.; and Jerry Voigt, president of the ACPA.

Richard Albright, owner of Richard O. Albright Inc., Carmel, Ind., submitted the winning layout to CC's Construction Joint Challenge.



World's Largest Construction Market

China will overtake the U.S. as the world's largest construction market by 2018, and should be about four times larger than India's at the end of the next decade, according to a report by market analyst Global Construction Perspectives, London, and Oxford Economics, New York City.

In the next 10 years, China's construction market will be worth about \$2.4 trillion and represent 19.1% of the global construction output, says the "Global Construction 2020" report released in November. Speaking at the launch of the report, Mike Betts, consultant for Global Construction Perspectives, says, "The construction market in China is already enormous at almost double the size of its nearest rival Japan. The U.S. has for some time

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held the top spot but despite its strong predicted growth over the next decade, China will become the world's largest construction market by 2018."

The 10-year forecast indicates emerging markets would rapidly overtake the construction output of their developed neighbors. The top 10 highest growth markets in 2020 will be the emerging markets, with Poland—the only European country—to feature on the list. China would rank third. The report highlights that today's global construction market is worth an estimated \$7.5 trillion, representing 13.4% of global GDP. But by 2020, construction will be a \$12.7 trillion global market, an overall growth of 70% in the next decade. Construction in 2020 will account for 14.6% of global GDP.

The infrastructure construction market in emerging markets will grow by 128% over the next decade, compared with just 18% during the same period

for developed countries. The largest construction market globally is residential, accounting for 40% of the total global construction market by 2020, when it will be worth \$5.1 trillion.

Construction Backlog Grows

The number of construction projects under way nationwide shows a slight uptick in September, according to data collected by Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC).

The organization reports the nation's Construction Backlog Indicator, known as the CBI, reached 5.9 months in September—3.2% higher than in August. The backlog for the "middle states," registered a modest increase in September of 0.2 months in backlog, or 3.5%, to 5.6 months.

The CBI measures the amount of

construction work contracted to be completed. The indicator is published bimonthly and data are collected from ABC members on an ongoing basis.

In a statement, the ABC says that despite the CBI increase, the backlog remains "uncomfortably small" and, with the exception of the infrastructure sector, overall backlog "remains weak."

The ABC attributes these results to the federal stimulus package and predicted that the peak of infrastructure spending, related to stimulus spending, will occur during the first half of 2010. On a regional basis, the average backlog for September rose in all parts of the country except in the South, where the CBI fell slightly—by 0.05 months in August to 5.76 months in September. That is roughly a 0.9% decrease.

The West had the largest monthly backlog increase between August and September—up 0.5 months to 6.3 months, an 8.1% increase. **CC**

